

**To: Members of the State Board of  
Education & Early Development**

**January 25, 2023**

**From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 4**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The board is being asked to consider a resolution supporting alternative pathways to certification.

**◆ BACKGROUND**

- There is a recommendation from the Teacher Recruitment and Retention (TRR) workgroup for the department to consider an Alaska Teacher Apprenticeship model as a possible project to support alternative pathways to certification.
- An Alaska Teacher Apprenticeship model is a recommendation that has arisen from the TRR workgroup focused on alternate pathways to certification. The recommendation has arisen from exploration of the Tennessee teacher apprenticeship model that has been able to make use of federal funding from the Department of Labor to support apprenticeship costs.
- At the board's December 2022 meeting, an update on what the TRR workgroup has found from research into apprenticeship was shared, along with recommendations for what next steps might be required to explore this option for Alaska.
- Considering the current teacher shortage, establishing pathways to certification would strengthen Alaska's educator pipeline and provide more opportunities for teacher aides and high school students to earn certificates and degrees and become the teachers of our children.
- Behind this cover memo is a copy of the proposed resolution.
- Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner; Kelly Manning, Deputy Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; and Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Education and Certification, will be available to answer questions from the board.

**◆ OPTIONS**

This is a work session item. The board will take action under Agenda Item 8.